



Frequently Asked Questions Fire Ready Projects

Q: What is the Governor's Office of Community Service?

A: Created in 1993, the [Governor's Office of Community Service](#) is a small state government office tasked with promoting and expanding service and volunteerism in Montana. The Governor's Office of Community Service implements the [ReadyMontana](#) initiative, which encourages Montanans to prepare for disasters and emergencies of all types and help their neighbors during times of need.

Q: What is *Fire Ready Montana*?

A: 2013 marks the fifth year of the *Fire Ready Montana* call-to-service campaign. Wildfires are inevitable in the state of Montana and everyone has a role to play in wildfire preparedness. The Governor's Office of Community Service works with partners across the state to encourage all Montanans to prepare their homes, property, family, and neighbors for wildfires.

Q: What is *Wildfire Awareness Week*?

A: Montana Wildfire Awareness Week will be held from **June 3-9, 2013**. The message for this year's week is: **Be Aware, Prepare, Do.** *Wildfire Awareness Week* events and activities will seek to reduce human caused wildfires, encourage landowners to take action to prepare their properties, homes, and families for wildland fires, and highlight resources available to assist with mitigation and preparedness efforts. Be sure to keep your eyes out for events and activities during Wildfire Awareness Week being completed by individuals and organizations across the state!

Q: How much funding is available?

A: Applicants may request up to \$2,000 per project. Funding will be awarded on a rolling basis, as funding allows. The Governor's Office of Community Service will indicate when funding is no longer available online at [ready.mt.gov](#). The Governor's Office of Community Service has the right to deny or partially fund requests.

Q: How are the projects funded?

A: The funds have been made available to the Governor's Office of Community Service through a grant from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the State of Montana Disaster and Emergency Services (DES).



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Q. How do I apply for funding and request supplies?

A. The first step is to complete and submit a *Funding & Supply Request* form and a W9 to the Governor's Office of Community Service at:

Governor's Office of Community Service

Attn: Fire Ready

PO BOX 200801

Helena, MT 59620

Email: serve@mt.gov

Fax: 406-444-4418

If you have questions about the opportunity, please call 406-444-1718 or email serve@mt.gov.

Q: What types of organizations can apply?

A: Eligible applicants include nonprofit and faith-based organizations, schools, volunteer fire departments, homeowners associations, and local governments. State agencies are not eligible to apply; however, we do encourage state agencies to partner with local organizations.

Q: What are examples of eligible projects?

A: Here are some great project ideas:

- Curbside pickup of wildfire fuels
- Firescaping at a local public park
- Needle and fine fuel bagging events
- Fire station open house
- Local public service announcement to promote home mitigation efforts
- Safe Summer recreation and fire safety training
- Fire Awareness Media Campaigns
- Neighborhood Association Fire Evacuation Drills and Trainings

Q. What type of expenses are allowable?

A: Eligible expenses include, but are not limited to: printing, service project supplies (trash bags, gloves, flagging materials), food for events over four hours, venue rental for public meetings, advertising costs, etc.



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Q: What activities are not eligible for funding?

A: Ineligible expenses include:

- Personnel costs/salaries
- Equipment purchase or rental (i.e. chippers, chain saws, etc.)
- Food & Beverage that falls outside the listed requirements including alcoholic beverages
- In-direct costs: other expense that benefit all programs and functions of the organization, including rent, telephone, and non-project related printing/postage
- Travel, including mileage and lodging

Q: How does reimbursement work? Do I have to have receipts or can I just give you an invoice?

A: You must submit itemized receipts to receive reimbursement. All receipts must show the purchase of allowable and approved items.

Q: We already have a community event planned. Can we use this funding to add a *Fire Ready* element to our existing event?

A: YES! County fairs, rodeos, and town picnics are all great events to teach your neighbors the importance of fire preparedness, homeowner and property mitigation activities, and safe recreational activities to prevent wildfires.

Q: What organizations can I contact to get more information on wildfire preparedness and mitigation resources?

A: Below are just a few Montana organizations that work to prepare and educate the public on wildland fire:

FireSafe Montana

The mission of FireSafe Montana is to *assemble diverse interests in a coalition that will work together on solutions to reduce the loss of lives and property from the threat of fire in and around Montana communities*. FireSafe Montana is a private, nonprofit organization coordinating and supporting a statewide coalition of diverse interests working together to help Montanans make their homes, neighborhoods, and communities fire safe. For more information, visit www.firesafemt.org

Contact Name: Jennifer Mayberry, *Executive Director*

Contact Email: execdir@firesafemt.org



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Keep Montana Green (KMG)

Each year Keep Montana provides information concerning fire prevention across Montana. KMG promotes an aggressive educational campaign targeting both adults and children about fire prevention. For more information, visit keepgreen.org

Contact Name: Crystal Beckman, *Executive Director*

Contact Email: clbeckman@mt.gov

American Red Cross of Montana

The American Red Cross prevents and alleviates human suffering in the face of emergencies by mobilizing the power of volunteers and the generosity of donors. American Red Cross of Montana volunteers are located across the state and are dedicated to providing individual preparedness training as well as response activities in the wake of disasters and emergencies. For more information, visit

<http://www.redcross.org/mt/billings/about-us>

Contact Name: Kevin Murszweski, *Statewide Preparedness Coordinator*

Contact Email: kevin.murszweski@redcross.org

State of Montana Disaster and Emergency Services (DES)

The State of Montana DES receives and distributes federal funds from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to assist localities with mitigation projects statewide. For more information visit <http://montanadma.org/disaster-and-emergency-services> or www.letsmitigatemontana.com

Contact Name: Kent Atwood, *State Hazard Mitigation Officer*

Contact Email: katwood@mt.gov